

# **Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Review Panel**

## **PIRT MEETING SUMMARY**

**MAY 18, 2006**

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TOWN CENTER ONE, 101 ISRAEL ROAD SE, ROOM 232  
TUMWATER, WASHINGTON**

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### **PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Maryanne Guichard, Chair	Department of Health	(360) 236-3391
Lucy Harter, Coordinator	Department of Health	(360) 236-3356
Steven Gilbert	Practicing Toxicologist	(206) 527-0926
Maria Victoria Peeler	Department of Ecology	(360) 407-6704
William Robertson	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2356
Dorothy Tibbetts	Department of Health	(360) 236-3361
Gabrielle Toutonghi	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-5478

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Allan Felsot	Washington State University	(509) 372-7365
Matthew Keifer	University of Washington	(206) 616-1452
Alice Larson	General Public	(206) 463-9000
Karen Ripley	Department of Natural Resources	(360) 902-1691
Ann Wick	Department of Agriculture	(360) 902-2051
Vacant	Department of Fish & Wildlife	

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bob Arrington	WSDA Alternative for Ann Wick	(360) 902-2011
Pat Boss	Washington State Horticulture Assn.	(509) 771-1844
Toby B. Cole	University of Washington	(206) 543-9300
Joe Cropley	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2383
Rob Duff	Department of Health	(360) 236-3181
Leslie Emerick	Department of Health	(360) 236-4046

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### ***PIRT Review Panel Activities***

Maryanne Guichard called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. The meeting agenda was approved. The April 20, 2006 PIRT meeting summary was approved as distributed.

#### ***Status of 2006 Action Recommendations***

The leads for the 2006 PIRT Action Recommendations reported progress on completing actions on recommendations with specific target dates and for updating the panel on the progress of ongoing recommendations.

*Action Recommendation 1 - Actions taken on under-reporting of pesticide-related illnesses.*  
Dorothy Tibbetts reported that DOH is taking the following actions to improve reporting of pesticide-related illnesses:

- Electronic reporting of L&I compensation claims to DOH is available. DOH is working on a system to sort and collate the claims.
- DOH is promoting the DOH Notifiable Conditions Web Site, <http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/nc/pesticide.htm> , to hospitals and physicians for reporting pesticide-related illnesses.
- The Pesticide Program has developed a comprehensive outreach plan that is being implemented as resources are available.
- In 2003, the Pesticide Program conducted a series of trainings for physicians in eastern Washington on the reporting of pesticide-related illnesses. The program will conduct another training series this spring.
- DOH sends health care providers summary investigation reports on their cases to promote continued reporting of pesticide-related illness.

*Action Recommendation 3 - School compliance with pesticide use tracking*

Steven Gilbert has been communicating with the Tacoma School District about writing Integrated Pest Management into school policy.

*Action Recommendation 4: Recommendations to EPA on the Worker Protection Standard.*

Gabrielle Toutonghi suggested that PIRT look at areas where pesticide labels and MSDS's conflict. The panel recommended that the topic be put on the July agenda for further discussion and that EPA be invited to talk about the label review and approval process.

*Action Recommendation 11: Identification of data available on residential and agricultural pesticide use.* Steven Gilbert is looking at the Oregon reporting system and the availability of pesticide use data from EPA.

### ***Preparation for June PIRT Panel Meeting in Yakima***

DOH is lining up the panel discussion of the ChE Monitoring Rule. Panel members will include a physician, worker and employer with experience with ChE monitoring during the past two years. The goal of the panel discussion is to learn how the ChE Monitoring Rule is implemented and to gain insight into the benefits and challenges for those who are involved in implementation, rather than to policy discuss the merits of the Rule.

Also on the agenda are presentations on DOH year one results of a study on preventable causes of farmworker illnesses, and clarification of WSDA and L&I roles in the administration of the Worker Protection Standard.

A translator will be available for persons who only speak Spanish.

### ***2005 PIRT Annual Report***

DOH completed the management review process on the 2005 PIRT Annual Report and the report is being printed. It will be posted to the PIRT Web site the second week of June.

### ***DOH Realignment of Environmental Health Offices***

Maryanne Guichard reported that the offices within the Division of Environmental Health will be realigned on July 1, 2006. The Pesticide Program will move to the Office of Environmental Health Assessments (EHA). Rob Duff, EHA Director, will be the new PIRT chair. Rob was introduced to the panel and talked about his experience with pesticide-related issues. Recently, the Pesticide Program worked with EHA on the three-year study on reporting of pesticide-related illnesses in the Yakima Valley.

### ***Science Corner***

Toby Cole, PhD, Senior Fellow, UW Office of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences presented the paper, *PON1 status of farmworker mothers and children as a predictor of organophosphate sensitivity*, and discussed the work research scientists are doing on PON1 at the University of Washington. The study shows the variability in human responses to organophosphates. Of particular concern are exposures to organophosphates by pregnant women and newborns with low PON1.

### ***Panel Decision-Making Process***

The panel recommended changes to the decision making document. The changes were noted and will be presented to the Panel for final approval at the July 20 PIRT meeting.

### ***PIRT Policies and Procedures on making recommendations and statements of support***

The revision of the draft PIRT policy was discussed. The panel agreed that the written procedures are more appropriately identified as 'guidelines'. The panel also clarified the differences between endorsing and supporting. The panel makes statements of support. It does not make endorsements. The guidelines were approved as amended.

The panel will look at creating a charter that would further define Panel operations.

### ***Revision of PIRT RCW***

Panel members agreed to table the discussion on revising the PIRT RCW. It was suggested that it would be better to have a PIRT charter in place before pursuing a RCW revision.

### ***Draft Letter to L&I concerning Cholinesterase Monitoring***

Barb Morrissey presented a revision of the letter to L&I in support of the continued collection of ChE depression data. The panel reached consensus to send the revised letter. Gabrielle Toutonghi (L&I) recused from voting.

## ***Agency Updates***

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### ***Agriculture***

Bob Arrington, alternate for panel member Ann Wick, distributed the WSDA news release on pesticide violations for the first quarter of 2006. Fines totaling \$16,150 were issued against businesses and individuals that violated state pesticide laws and rules. Violations included the illegal burial of pesticides, spray operations that resulted in illnesses, and failing to comply with the worker protection standards. WSDA is working with growers on improving education on worker protection.

WSDA received \$200,000 from L&I to assist in worker protection training.

Bob was asked by panel members about the status of the WSDA pilot project for the Notification Rule. He reported that it is now either in the Governor's Office or the WSDA Director's Office. The Panel came to consensus on sending WSDA a follow-up to the November 10, 2005 letter in support of the Rule. The follow-up letter will ask for an update on the proposed rule changes and/or the status of the pilot project. The letter will be distributed to the Panel for review.

### ***Ecology***

The first NPDES issued by Ecology for water pest applications has been issued for Lake Washington. Residents who are concerned about the permit and applications have been invited to a public meeting tonight, May 18, 2006.

### ***Health***

Dorothy Tibbetts, current DOH representative to the PIRT panel, is briefing Rob Duff, Director of the Office of Environmental Health Assessments, on DOH's responsibilities to the panel. Rob will be the PIRT Chair as of July 1, 2006. DOH is looking for a part-time PIRT coordinator to take over management of the PIRT meetings. Lucy Harter will continue to work with the panel on data issues and will write the annual PIRT report.

### ***Labor and Industries***

Gabrielle Toutonghi provided handouts on the lawsuit settled between the Farm Bureau and L&I concerning the manner in which inspections of privately owned farms and other businesses are conducted under the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act. Gabrielle also distributed the CMDS Weekly Report including results of Cholinesterase monitoring through 5/15/06.

### ***Washington Poison Center***

Bill Robertson reported that WPC is receiving the expected number of calls concerning pesticides. Recent news articles on lead, arsenic and mercury are generating more calls than pesticides at this time.

### ***Public Comments***

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Pat Boss, Washington State Horticulture Association (WSHA), expressed concerns about the letter PIRT sent to WSDA in support of the proposed Modification of the General Pesticides Rules, WAC 16-228, and about PIRT support of a proposed pilot project involving notification. The proposed rule would have required notification of schools, hospitals, nursing homes and state-licensed adult and child day care centers by applicators using air, airblast equipment or over-head chemigation before applying pesticides carrying a "Danger/Poison" label (Notification Rule). He expressed tree fruit growers' concerns about how the pilot project would be structured and what the mechanics for notification would be. He hopes that PIRT will have the flexibility to work with all of the parties involved.

Pat noted during the discussion of the paper, '*PONI status of farmworker mothers and children as a predictor of organophosphate sensitivity*', that he felt that the data used in the study are now out of date, that the use of organophosphates has decreased dramatically and that use will continue to decrease in the future.

Pat will provide PIRT with a copy of the comments that WSHA sent to Governor Gregoire concerning the Governor's Office proposed pesticide notification pilot project.

## ***Future Meetings***

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### ***Future Topics***

Members of the panel suggested that PIRT invite a person from the Department of Transportation to give a presentation on its use of pesticides on roadsides and other sites (including quantities of pesticides used). The Panel also would like to hear from the agencies that are monitoring birds (Fish and Wildlife) and fish (Fish and Wildlife, Health and Ecology) for pesticide body burdens.

The next PIRT meeting will be on June 15, 2006 at Washington State Department of Agriculture in Yakima, 21 North First Avenue. The meeting will be held from 10:00 to 3:00.

### ***Location of Future Meetings***

PIRT meets on the third Thursday of each month. All Seattle meetings will be held at the State Public Health Lab, 1601 NE 150<sup>th</sup> Street, Room S4. Olympia area meetings will be at the Department of Health, 101 Israel Road SE, Town Center East, Building 1, Room 232, Tumwater.

June 15, 2006 – Yakima at WSDA

July 20, 2006 – Public Health Lab

August – No meeting

September 21, 2006 – Department of Health

October 19, 2006 – Public Health Lab

November 16, 2006 – Department of Health

December – No meeting

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.